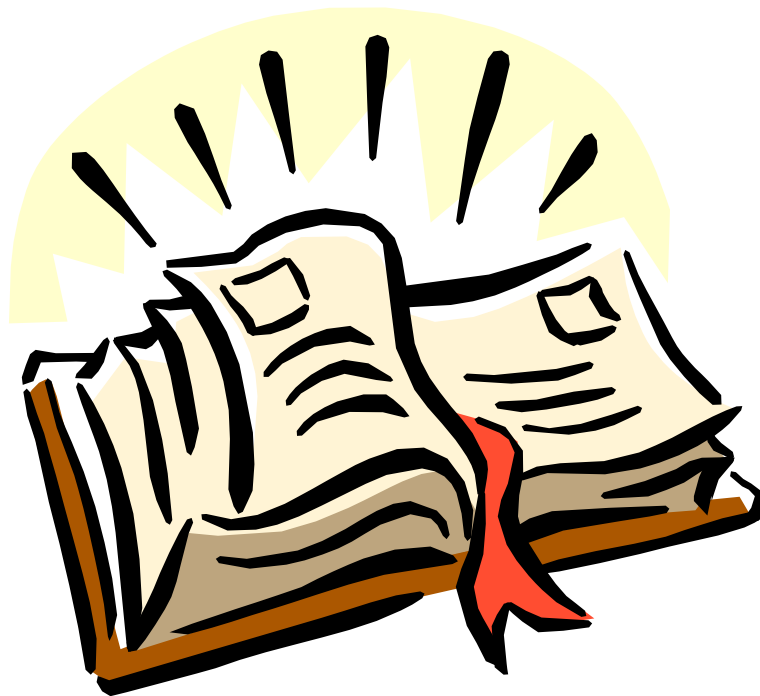


Bible Time for Kids!



CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF:

LESSON TITLE: The Rich Young Ruler

THEME: God wants first place on our lives!

SCRIPTURE: Luke 18:18-27



Dear Parents...

Welcome to Bible Time for Kids. Bible Time for Kids are devotions for children and families. Their purpose is to supplement our Sunday morning curriculum and give you an opportunity to encourage your children in developing a daily devotional life. You can pick up your copy each Sunday in your child's classroom or at the family bulletin board in the hall. We hope Bible Time for Kids is a blessing to you as your family studies God's Word together.

This week in Children's Church we learned about **The Rich Young Ruler**. The theme was "**God wants first place in our lives.**" The Rich Young Ruler had to make a very serious choice. He had to choose between his riches and following Jesus. Unfortunately he chose his riches instead of Jesus. It was sad because something other than the Lord had first place in his life.

Sometimes things can keep us away from Jesus. It doesn't matter what we have, but we must have a right attitude about the things we have. Whether we have a lot or a little we should never put anything in a more important place in our lives than Jesus.

The section of scripture that we studied was **Luke 18:18-27**. The following five devotions are based on either the scripture or the theme for Sunday's lesson. As a starting point it would be good for you to review these verses with your children.

These devotions are designed to help you reinforce Sunday's lesson throughout the week with your children, provide some more ideas for the application of God's Word in your children's lives and provide a tool to help in family devotions.

Obviously children at various age levels will respond to the devotional in different ways. You may want to add your own ideas to these to make them more age appropriate.

May the Lord bless you as you study His Word together!

Day One

Who Then Can Be Saved?

Text: Luke 18:26 – “And those who heard it said, ‘Who then can be saved?’”

Also read Luke 18:18-27

My wife’s great grandfather was a very rich man. He practically owned an entire town. He had a lot of money but he was very unhappy. He lived his life disobeying God and following after sin. He didn’t go to any church, nor did he have much desire to be around people who did go to church. Then one day he heard the good news about the love of God for him through Jesus. Someone shared with him about Jesus dying for his sins and he accepted Jesus as his Lord and Savior. He was the kind of man that no one thought God could save.

Soon after this, God directed him to sell all his land and properties and spend the money reaching other people with the message of God’s love. He spent the rest of his life planting churches from city to city. The people called him the “weeping prophet” because God had made this once hard heart so tender that he could hardly finish his Bible message without breaking out in tears. He died a poor man in the world’s eyes, but a rich man in heaven’s eyes. He sold his treasure on earth, and spent it on the treasures of heaven.

The story of the rich young ruler that we studied this past Sunday **could** have turn out like the story of my wife’s great grandfather. The main truth of this Bible passage is that God is the God of the impossible. If you are willing to give your life to God, He will give you treasure in heaven. The important thing to remember is that whether you are rich or poor you are lost without God. If the rich young ruler had truly believed that Jesus could give him eternal life, he would have gladly given all that he had and traded it for eternal life. Once a person realizes that nothing in this world can get them to heaven they can then realize that nothing in this world is worth keeping them out of heaven! The simple fact is that Jesus is worth more than all the riches of the world. Who then can be saved? Anyone who will follow Jesus no matter what!

- What happened when the rich man in our story came to Jesus?
- What happened to the Rich Young Ruler in the Bible when he came to Jesus?
- Can anyone be saved? How?

Kid’s Bible Dictionary



Ruler: A person who has power or authority over others.

Impossible: Something which normally can’t be done.

This One Thing

Text: Luke 18:22 - "So when Jesus heard these things, He said to him, "You still lack one thing. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me."

Also read Acts 4:10-12

There is a story about the daughter of one of the richest men in the world. It is about the life of this daughter. She was raised with everything that could be given to her by her father. She had big houses and big toys. She had nannies and maids and servants that tended to all of her needs. Although her mother had died when she was young, she grew up in what we think would be a dream world. She had everything that a person could want.

When she grew up she began to search for something that was missing in her heart. She wasn't quite sure what she was looking for but she knew something was missing. She tried travelling, going to parties and living for the world. She just could not find what was missing from her life. There was a void that the riches of the world could not buy her. She had everything, but at the same time she had nothing.

Our story of the rich young ruler who meets Jesus is a similar story to that of the rich young woman. This rich young man was looking for something that was missing from his life. He was sure that Jesus could tell him what it was. Unlike the rich young girl, he knew that it was something that could not be bought. He knew it was something that only God could fill. Jesus told him that there was truly one thing he lacked. He had a lot of things. But he still lacked one thing. The one thing that he needed was the person he asked the question to - JESUS. He needed to surrender his life to Jesus.

We have all been born with one thing lacking. We are all born as sinners that are separated from God. Our sin has separated us from God. Jesus is the only one who can forgive us our sin. He is the one thing we lack. The one thing that the rich young woman and the rich young man needed is the same thing we need, we need to accept Jesus as our Savior.

- What was the "one thing" that the rich young girl and the rich young ruler needed?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Born in sin: We are all born with a sin nature, we naturally want to sin. Because of this we are separated from God until we come to Him by believing (faith) in Jesus.

Day Three

When You Have It All

Text: Hebrews 11:26 - "esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward."

Also read Hebrews 11:24-29

The Bible gives us a picture of a man in history who, like the rich young ruler, had it all. His name was Moses. Moses was born to a Hebrew family in the days of the rule of the Egyptians. Pharaoh had ordered the death of all Hebrew boys as soon as they were born. Moses' parents wanted to save their son, so they put him in a basket and floated him down the river Nile. Moses was rescued by the Pharaoh's daughter and then was privileged to be raised in Pharaoh's house.

When Moses grew up God began to call him away from the king's house to be with his own people, the Hebrews. At this point Moses had everything a man could dream of. He was a son of a king. He was rich, he was young and he was a ruler. He had money and power and a whole life to enjoy it all. He had a huge choice in front of him! He could either stay and enjoy a life of luxury and pleasure, living like a king, or he could leave and go suffer with his people the Hebrews, the slaves of the king.

The choice Moses faced was pretty tough. What do you do when you've got it all? Moses, we are told in **Hebrews 12:25**, chose "rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin." Moses chose to follow God instead! Sadly, the rich young ruler we've been studying about chose to follow riches. He did not think it was worth it to follow God's call. So he went away from Jesus very sad.

The answer to the question of what to do when you've got it all is the same for everyone! You give it all to God! Whether you have it all or just a little, it is still all God's. All we have should be offered to God, to do with as He wills. The main issue is not how much we have, or don't have, but where our heart is. Is our heart on our things? Or is our heart on Jesus? Never be afraid to give your all to God. Then you will truly have it all.

- What was the choice that Moses had to make in his life?
- If you were in the same situation, what choice would you make?
- What is more important - having things or following God?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Esteem: To lift up; Moses lifted up suffering for God as more important than the treasures of Egypt.

Treasures in Heaven

Text: Matthew 6:20 - "but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal."

Also read Matthew 6:19-34

One of the most exciting adventures I could think of going on is a hunt for hidden treasure. When I was a boy they used to have treasure maps that they would give out in our city. The newspaper would give you a piece of the clue. If you could figure out the clue it would lead you to the treasure that was hidden. Each day a new piece of the puzzle was added to the map to lead toward the prize. The city was excited with all kinds of activity. It seemed like everyone was looking for the treasure. People love to look for the treasures of this world. But God said He has treasure that He will hide away for us in heaven. Did you know that there is spiritual treasure? Let's take a look at what the Bible says about it.

The rich young ruler of our Bible passage had found his pot of treasure. He had the treasure already. Why should he give away his treasure to the poor? Why would Jesus ask him to do something as wild and crazy as that? Is there anything that Jesus could give him that could be worth the riches of this world? Jesus said that there was. He said in verse 22, "sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven." Treasure in heaven? Is the treasure of heaven greater than the treasure of the earth?

In Matthew 6:19-21 Jesus teaches us a wonderful lesson about the two different kinds of treasures. Jesus said that all the treasures of the earth will fade away and they can be stolen from you. But the treasures laid up in heaven will last forever. So what should the rich young ruler have done? He should have obeyed Jesus and sold what would have rusted and faded, and followed Jesus and began laying up treasures in heaven that would last forever. Where is your heart today? Is it focused on treasures of earth or treasures of heaven?

- Have you ever been on an adventure looking for hidden treasure?
- What is treasure on earth?
- What is treasure in heaven and why is it better?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Treasure: Something regarded as precious or valuable.

Camels, Needles and the Impossible

Text: Luke 18:25 - "For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."

Also read Luke 1:26-38

Have you ever tried to thread a needle? Have you ever tried to thread a small needle with a thick piece of thread? It just won't work! You can push and push and poke and poke but there is just no way to shove that fat piece of thread through the tiny eye of that needle. This is a tough task to work out. Your mom could probably moisten the end with her mouth and curl it tight with the tips of her fingers and squeeze it through the eye of that needle. But what about getting a camel to go through? Don't think mom can handle that one! If you were to take that same needle and jump into a plane and fly to Israel, and find a huge nine foot tall camel and tell him to shove himself through the eye of that needle, could it happen? Not in a million years. You probably couldn't even thread one of the camel's hairs through the eye of that needle, much less the entire camel. It just can not be done! For humans that is. But do you think God could do it? Jesus said He could!

During the three and a half years that Jesus spent ministering with the disciples, they got to witness Him do some totally awesome miracles. Jesus turned water into wine. He fed 5,000 men with only two fish and five loaves of bread. Jesus made blind people see, and crippled people walk straight. Jesus even made dead people come back to life again. He made the impossible seem like it was possible. In fact He did make the impossible possible.

One day Jesus gathered up His disciples and sent them out on His behalf. They were going to go out and tell the world about Jesus. He told them to "heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons..." Jesus gave them His power and authority to do miracles. It is important for us to remember that our God is a God of miracles. Man can sew with a needle and thread but God can sew with a needle and camel. Jesus said He could!

- Ask your mom or dad to show you a needle and talk about the impossibility of getting a camel through it. Can God do the impossible?

Kid's Prayer Time



This week when you pray remember to thank the Lord for His great salvation. No matter who we are or what we have or don't have we can come to Jesus. Ask the Lord for help to never place **THINGS** as more important than **HIM!**

Memory Verse...

First and Second Grade (paraphrased)

"All things are possible with God!"

Third Grade and Above

"But He said, 'The things which are impossible with men are possible with God.'"

Luke 18:27